

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7687
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 4317

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, NI
SUBJECT: GARBA'S TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON NON-ALIGNMENT, NAMIBIA,
AND THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS

1. THANKS TO FAST FOOTWORK BY OUR PRESS ATTACHE, WE WERE
ABLE TO TAPE THE AUDIO OF A NATIONWIDE TELEVISION INTERVIEW
BY MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA TWO NIGHTS AGO, I.E., THE DAY FOLLOWING
PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEPARTURE FROM LAGOS. THE TEXT IS GIVEN BELOW
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BEGINNING IN PARAGRAPH 5.

2. THE INTERVIEW WAS STAGE-AMANGED BY DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI,
DIRECTOR OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
(NIIA). NIIA IS THE ROUGH EQUIVALENT FOR NIGERIA OF OUR
BROOKINGS INSTITUTE AND TONY LAKE'S S/P IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
AKINYEMI HOSTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S AFRICAN POLICY

ADDRESS DELIVERED IN LAGOS APRIL 1.

3. AMONG OTHER ROLES AKINYEMI PLAYS, HE HAS OF LATE BEEN PARTICULARLY USEFUL TO GARBA IN DESIGNING THE PACKAGING OF THE FMG'S INCREASINGLY COLLABORATIVE POLICIES. AKINYEMI HAS TAKEN PAINS TO TRY TO PORTRAY THESE POLICIES AS IN CONSONANCE WITH NIGERIA'S TRADITIONAL NON-ALIGNED STANCE. HE HAS SERVED GARBA WELL IN PROTECTING HIM AGAINST ATTACK FROM THE LEFT. WE VIEW THIS INTERVIEW AS HAVING BEEN CONCEIVED TO SERVE THIS PURPOSE.

4. WE WOULD CALL PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO FIVE POINTS:

- THE INTERVIEW REITERATES THE UTILITY OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT.
- GARBA CREDITS THE CARTER/OBASANJO CONVERSATIONS WITH CLEARING THE AIR CONCERNING AMERICAN REJECTION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND REAFFIRMATION OF BRITISH AND US SUPPORT FOR THE ANGOLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ON ZIMBABWE.
- GARBA REITERATES NIGERIAN SUPPORT OF THE TWO-MEETING SCENARIO ON RHODESIA. (WE LEARNED AT MEA TODAY THAT THE FMG HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NKOMO TO URGE HIM TO ATTEND THE FIRST MEETING.)
- THE STATEMENT OF THE BEGINNING OF PARAGRAPH 14 IS THE CLOSEST THE FMG HAS YET COME TO A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF APPROVAL OF THE CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSALS ON NAMIBIA. (THE NIGERIAN TEAM THAT WORKED ON THE CARTER/OBASANJO

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE WITH DICK MQBSE AND ME WERE RELUCTANT TO GO THIS FAR IN THE COMMUNIQUE, ARGUING THAT SYE FMG COULD TAKE NOTE OF BUT NOT RPT NOT EXPRESS APPROVAL OF THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS PRIOR TO THEIR PRESENTATION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.)

-- GARBA'S REFERENCE AT THE END OF PARAGRAPH 14 TO WALVIS BAY AS A 'JURIDICAL' MATTER APPEARS TO REPRESENT MISUNDERSTANDING OR MISINTERPRETATION OF THE US POSITION AS EXPLAINED DURING THE CARTER VISIT. WE ARE MAKING CERTAIN THAT BOTH GARBA AND AKINYEMI UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION AND INTENTIONS ON THIS POINT. THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT GARBA SEEMS TO BE SAYING, HOWEVER, IS THAT HE APPEARS TO REJECT SWAPO'S INSISTENCE ON BEING ASSURED WALVIS BAY NOW RATHER THAN NEGOTIATING FOR IT AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

5. QUOTE OUR POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE THAT

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AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASIY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 4317

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

OF NONALIGNMENT AND I WANT TO REASSURE YOU THAT AFRICA
STILL REMAINS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY.
OUR BIG COMMITMENT TO THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA HND THE ROLE OF THE GREAT POWERS, CON-
CENTRATING THE ATTAINMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN THE
SUB-REGION, ARE SOME OF THE SUBJECTS OF THE BILATERAL
TALKS THAT THIS VISIT HAS MADE POSSIBLE.

6. NOW, BECAUSE OF THE CRUCIAL ROLE THE GREAT POWERS HAVE
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TO PLAY IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM,
WE HAVE ALL ALONG MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH BOTH THE U.S.
AND THE SOVIET UNION ON THIS ISSUE. YOU WILL RECALL THAT

I PAID A VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION TOWARD THE END OF
LAST YEAR IN ORDER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH THAT GOVERNMENT.
I DO REGARD THEREFORE THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT CARTER ALSO
AFFORDED US AN OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS HERE IN
LAGOS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRONT LINE STATES AND
ONE OF THE CO-LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, MR. MUGABE.

7. NATURALLY, OF COURSE, NIGERIA AND THE U.S. REVIEWED
BILATERAL RELATIONS.

8. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT TO YOU THAT ON THE WHOLE THE VISIT
WAS VERY USEFUL. I THINK IT WAS A VERY USEFUL VISIT, BOTH
FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE
PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT MADE BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE
THEATER. AND THE VARIOUS STATEMENTS THAT WERE MADE AT
VARIOUS OCCASIONS TESTIFY TO THE USEFULNESS OF THE VISIT.

9. AS YOU KNOW WHEN THE THREE SO-CALLED MODERATES ENTERED
ZIMBABWE AND ANNOUNCED THE ILLEGAL INTERNAL SETTLEMENT,
THE AMERICANS WERE INITIALLY AMBIVALENT WITH THEIR RESPONSE.
HOWEVER, FOLLOWING OUR TALKS DURING THIS VISIT, THE U.S.
HAS UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AS
ILLEGAL AND UNACCEPTABLE. THEY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR
COMMITMENT TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS THE BASIS
FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF THE ZIMBABWE ISSUE.

10. IT WILL BE RECALLED TOO THAT THE BRITISH, ON THEIR PART,
HAD DEVELOPED COLD FEET TOWARD THE ANGLO/AMERICAN PROPOSALS
AND WERE IN FACT DRIFTING DANGEROUSLY TOWARD THE ILLEGAL
INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. BUT WITH THE U.S. REAFFIRMATION OF
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THE PLAN, THE BRITISH HAVE NOW TILTED IN FAVOR OF THEIR OWN
PROPOSALS.

11. CONSEQUENTLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.S. AND BRITAIN
HAVE AGREED TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH THE PATRIOTIC FRONT
IN DAR ES SALAAM AROUND THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS
ESSENTIALLY TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS
DURING THE TRANSITION AND MATTERS LIKE THAT. THIS IN EFFECT
WILL BE A CONTINUATION OF THE MALTA TALKS WHICH AS YOU KNOW,
WERE NOT FOLLOWED UP. IT IS ALSO HOPED THAT IF THE RESULT
OF THE MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM IS FAVORABLE, AND I HOPE
IT WILL BE FAVORABLE, ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD BETWEEN
THE 25TH AND 26TH OF APRIL AND AT THIS MEETING WE HOPE THAT
SUBSTANTIAL AND MEANINGFUL PROGRESS WILL BE MADE ON THE
CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS. THIS MEETING IS DESIGNED AS AN ALL
PARTY MEETING. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE DECISION REACHED
BY THE FRONT LINE STATES AT THE LAST MEETING THEY HAD IN
DAR ES SALAAM, AND THIS IDEA HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE

PATRIOTIC FRONT AND BY OURSELVES.

12. NOW, AS REGARDS TO NAMIBIA, THE TWO COUNTRIES NIGERIA AND THE U.S. ALSO AGREED THAT FOR THE PEACE AND SECURIY OF AFRICA IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NAMIBIA ACHIEVE ITS INDEPENDENCE OF THE BASIS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385.

13. WE WERE BRIEFED BY THE AMERICANS ON THE CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE FIVE WESTERN CONTACT GROUP AND THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS WHICH THEY HAVE DEVELOPED AS A MEANS TO A PROMPT AND PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO A MAJORITY RULE IN NAMIBIA. IN THIS CONNECTION THE CONTACT GROUP HAS PROPOSED A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 10 DURING WHICH THEY HOPE TO FORMALLY PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL TO THE BUNCIL.

14. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS WE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM THE U.S. THAT THE FIVE-POWER CONTACT GROUP'S THINKING
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WAS IN LINE WITH AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS ON NAMIBIA. CONSE-
QUENTLY, AND AFTER VERY HARD NEGOTIATION, THE AMERICANS
AGREED AND ARE WILLING TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE
EFFECT THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY IS A JURIDICIAL MATTER
WHICH WILL BE NEGOTIATED BY AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. UNQUOTE.
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